

# The PVRC Newsletter

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**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, February 9, 1987, at 7:30 p.m.

QTH: Church of the Nativity, Temple Hills, MD (directions last p.)

**AGENDA:** Report on Sprint Contest, & discussion led by Bob Cox, K3EST, on operating hints for the ARRL DX contests. Also, K4YT, most recently /4D9 in the CQ WW SSB test, is expected and will give a little rundown on contesting from that area of the world.

**CONTESTS:** CW Sprint Sat. eve., Feb. 7 (EST) (Feb. 8 GMT date)  
SSB Sprint Sat.eve., Feb. 14 (EST) (Feb. 15 GMT date)  
ARRL DX CW, Feb. 21-22  
(Meet on 147.00 Monday Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. to discuss)  
ARRL DX SSB, Mar. 7-8  
(Meet on 147.00 Monday March 9 at 8 p.m. to discuss)

**Silent Key.** PVRCer Don Riebhoff, K7ZZ/CT4AT, ex-XV5AC, XU1DX, 1S1A, FM5FC. One of the world's best contest operators of the 70's and a memorable personality, Don had big plans and had rebuilt CT4AT over the past year to include a 2 element rotary for 80/75. He died suddenly in a head-on automobile crash near Libson, Portugal, on Sunday January 18. PVRCers may pay their respects at a Memorial Service Wed., Feb. 4 at 11 a.m., Foundry United Methodist Church, 16 & T Streets Northwest, Washington D.C.

**Multiplier-Spotting : A Better Way.** A number of Washington-area contesters and DXers have expressed interest in establishing a Washington-area packet radio digipeater to support exchange of DX spotting information. Use of packet radio permits storage of the information if the operator is out of the shack. It also eliminates the need for a busy operator to interrupt his QSO, remove his headphones, etc. Instead, the operator need merely read the screen at his leisure. It is envisioned that this digipeater would be exclusively used to efficiently communicate DX information and, on contest weekends, multipliers, to multiple points (members' shacks). It would not support transfers of computer programs or other large files that would slow down transmission of the desired information to participants. There are technical reasons why use of a normal digipeater is not desireable for performing these functions in a timely manner. DXers and contesters in New England already have established successfully a system such as we propose. In order to get this system up and running we need an IBM-type computer, VHF radio, coax, antenna, and a site. Wayne, N2FB, has volunteered to head up this effort and Frank, W3LPL, has volunteered the coax, antenna, and site. It will take approximately \$2,000 to buy a radio and computer that will be

dedicated exclusively to these functions and reside at the site. At the last PVRC meeting nine members committed \$100 each. We need eleven more to make an initial system practical and affordable. It can be expanded later if interest warrants. If you want to join, or would like further information, call Wayne N2FB at home, 627-1166 (area code 301).

If you are receiving this Newsletter for the first time in ages. . . . .

Welcome! We want to encourage you to rejoin the active membership of PVRC by joining in the contests, paying dues, coming to our meetings, or whatever you desire.

-- For active members, your mailing label now indicates your membership status for accounting purposes: just a year indicates the year through which you have paid dues, i.e., 1986 indicates you have paid for 1986 but not 1987.

-- A "C" before the year, i.e., C1985, indicates that recently you have not paid dues, but continue to receive the Newsletter due to the generosity of dues-paying members who have voted to pay higher dues to keep you on the mailing list. We hope that you will continue to participate in contests, and one day again become active in other PVRC activities. Your continued listing is due to having participated in one of six contest weekends in the last several years : CQ WW SSB or CW, SS SSB or CW, or ARRL DX SSB or CW. This information is obtained from the published accounts of contest activity, so the latest available is the 1986 ARRL DX contest.

-- \*1947 indicates that you are a charter member of the PVRC. At the January, 1987 meeting we voted to continue you on our mailing list without regard to whether you remain a dues-paying member or continue to contribute to contests, although we hope that you want to do both.

-- PROSPECT indicates that you have attended one of our meetings or otherwise expressed interest in contesting and the PVRC. We mail the Newsletter for you for a reasonable period of time so that you will be informed of club activities and meetings, and hopefully will want to join the club.

-- If there is none of the above on your label, our records indicate that you have been a PVRC member but have not paid dues or reported participation in the CQ WW, ARRL SS, or ARRL DX contests in the last three years. This Newsletter is an invitation to rejoin us.

-- W3XE is due thanks from all of us for diligently researching and updating our records and putting this system together. Of course, there may be errors, so please keep ANDy informed of any change in address or status that does not concur with what your label indicates. His phone number is above.

Dues are \$10. for 1987 for in-area members; \$5 for 1987 for out-of-area members wishing to continue receiving the Newsletter. Send to Andy, address below.